



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

April 4, 2014

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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support AB 2328 (Pérez).** This measure would establish the California Service Corps to administer Federal AmeriCorps Program grants. The grants are used to recruit, train, manage, and place volunteers in various community settings to address critical unmet needs. AmeriCorps members gain professional skills development and work experience, and are eligible to receive assistance with paying off student debt. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support programs that provide training, remedial education, job placement, career enhancement, subsidized employment and other services to low-income persons and at-risk youth, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 2328.**
- **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**
 - **County-opposed AB 2052 (Gonzalez)** - related to extending certain workers' compensation presumptions to all peace officers, passed the Assembly Insurance Committee on April 2, 2014.
 - **County-opposed AB 2732 (Committee on Insurance)** - related to requiring employers to reimburse claimants for workers' compensation lien fees that were paid to the State, passed the Assembly Insurance Committee on April 2, 2014.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **County-supported SB 833 (Liu)** - related to a voluntary program for inmates to remain in a custody facility until normal business hours, passed the Senate Floor on April 3, 2014.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 2328 (Pérez), which as introduced on February 21, 2014, would establish the California Service Corps, to be administered by CaliforniaVolunteers, to determine eligibility for Federal AmeriCorps Program grants.

The AmeriCorps Program provides competitive grants to state and local agencies, community and faith-based organizations, non-profit groups, and institutions of higher education. The grants are used to recruit, train, manage, and place volunteers with various community settings to assist in addressing critical unmet needs. Services may be provided in a variety of areas including, but not limited to: education and literacy programs, after school programs, housing assistance, preventive health services, disaster preparedness and response, and assistance for veterans and military families. Individuals who work as an AmeriCorps member may receive a living allowance, health care, and other benefits depending on the type of service provided. Full-time members typically complete 1,700 hours of service over 11 months. Upon successful completion of their service, qualified AmeriCorps members may be eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$4,725 from the National Service Trust. The Education Award may be used at traditional four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges and technical schools, or it can be used to pay off existing student loans.

Under existing State law, by executive order of the Governor, CaliforniaVolunteers is charged with overseeing programs and initiatives for service and volunteerism.

AB 2328 would establish the California Service Corps (CSC) to be administered by CaliforniaVolunteers, using AmeriCorps Program guidelines. As required under Federal law, CSC members would be required to meet all of the following requirements: 1) possess an associate or bachelor degree; 2) provide proof of incurred student debt; 3) be 21 years of age or older; and 4) provide proof of two or more years of California residency. Under AB 2328, cities, counties, and other municipalities would be able to apply to CaliforniaVolunteers, through a competitive grant process, to host one or more CSC member.

The author of AB 2328 indicates that the AmeriCorps Program in California is widely successful and reports that in 2013 CaliforniaVolunteers administered 4,000 Federally-funded members from a pool of 17,000 applicants statewide. An additional 7,000 national AmeriCorps members were placed in volunteer assignments in communities throughout the State. However, according to the author, funding restrictions and competition for the available grants have limited California's ability to maximize participation in the AmeriCorps Program. AB 2328 seeks to increase the amount of available AmeriCorps positions in California and the size of the Education Award.

This office notes that in 2013 AmeriCorps Program members were placed with various community-based organizations throughout the County including, but not limited to: Habitat for Humanity; the American Red Cross; Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Interval House Crisis Shelters; Jewish Family Services; Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles; Jumpstart for Los Angeles County at Whittier College; Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade; Boys and Girls Club; Goodwill of Southern California; National Council of La Raza; Volunteers of America and Youth Build Palmdale. In addition to providing services for children, families and adults in needy communities, and promoting volunteerism, members in the AmeriCorps Program gain valuable professional skills development and work experience. Members are also eligible to receive assistance in paying off student debt. AB 2328 would increase access to services provided through the AmeriCorps Program for recent college graduates and residents throughout the County.

This office supports AB 2328. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support programs that provide training, remedial education, job placement, career enhancement, subsidized employment and other services to low-income persons and at-risk youth, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 2328.**

AB 2328 is sponsored by Assembly Speaker John Pérez and supported by the California State Association of Counties. Currently there is no registered opposition on file for this measure. AB 2328 is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee on April 9, 2014.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-opposed AB 2052 (Gonzalez), which as introduced on February 20, 2014, would extend certain workers' compensation presumptions to all employees that fall under the statutory definition of peace officer, passed the Assembly Insurance Committee on a 8 to 3 vote on April 2, 2014. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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County-opposed AB 2732 (Committee on Insurance), which as amended on March 28, 2014, would amend specified provisions of the workers' compensation system reforms enacted in SB 863 (Chapter 363, Statutes of 2012), including amending lien provisions to require employers to reimburse lien claimants for fees that were paid to the State by the claimant, passed the Assembly Insurance Committee on a 12 to 0 vote on April 2, 2014. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported SB 833 (Liu), which as amended on March 18, 2014, would authorize a county sheriff to offer a voluntary program to any inmate who, upon completion of a sentence or a release order by the court, could choose to stay in the custody facility for up to 16 additional hours or until normal business hours, whichever is shorter, in order to be discharged to a treatment center or during daytime hours, passed the Senate Floor on a vote 35 to 0 on April 3, 2014. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads
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